Academic Standards

NCAA GUIDELINES

To be eligible to practice and/or compete, a student-athlete must:
Have been admitted as a regular student seeking a degree according to the published entrance requirements of your institution; be in good academic standing according to the standards of your institution; be enrolled in at least a minimum full-time program (not less than 12 semester hours=3 of 4 blocks); and maintain satisfactory progress toward a baccalaureate degree at your institution.

CORNELL COLLEGE GUIDELINES

Absences
Policies on class attendance are the responsibility of individual professors. Faculty are encouraged, however, to accommodate students who participate in a college-sponsored trip, encounter an emergency situation (student illness or family death), or participate in religious observances. Students shall miss no more than one full class day or two half days per block for college sponsored competitions where any missed class time from either a morning or afternoon session will count as a half day. Students may miss additional time as required for conference, regional, or championship competitions.

Student Health Services or other health professionals will issue verifications of absence for sufficient medical reasons. Student Health Services will not issue a verification for missing one day of class, but may provide documentation if a health withdrawal is needed. Students who know that they will be absent should notify their instructors in advance. Those who are unable to do so because of illness or personal or family crisis should notify their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors will decide on the basis of their explanations whether or not to accommodate them and in what way.

Students who participate in College-sponsored trips or will be absent due to religious observances are expected to secure the permission of their course instructors in advance of their absence and to arrange with their instructors to make up the work they will miss. Students who fail to make arrangements with their instructors in advance are subject to whatever penalties the instructors would normally impose for unexcused absences. In case of doubt as to a student’s participation in the trip, the instructor may consult the college sponsor.

Cornell College adheres to the following guidelines in addition to those set by the NCAA.

Academic Review: Warning, Probation, and Suspension
The Academic Review Process is intended to help students meet the standards required for graduation. The Academic Standing Committee regularly reviews the academic record of all
students enrolled in the College. Students are expected to maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 or higher, and to enroll in one course credit every Block, so that they may graduate in four years. Students may only lose one course credit over their four years and still graduate at the end of four years. Students are also expected to earn at least 7 course credits during their first year, at least 15 by the end of their sophomore year, and at least 23 by the end of their junior year. Students must earn 31 credits to graduate. Transfer students and students who withdraw from Cornell and then re-enter are assigned a class standing (e.g., sophomore) and are expected to keep up with their class. When students fall below or are at risk of falling below GPA expectations or falling behind on course credits necessary for graduation, they are subject to academic notifications and sanctions.

Students who are in academic difficulty are expected to work with their instructors, their academic advisors, the Coordinator of Academic Support and Advising, members of the counseling staff, the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Registrar, and others as needed to identify and resolve the problems that are causing their academic difficulties. Students in academic difficulty should also give serious thought to revising their registrations to include courses in which they have a greater chance of success. Failure to heed these notifications and to seek appropriate help may lead to continued academic difficulty which may result in suspension and dismissal.

The gradations of notifications and sanctions issued by the Committee are described below. These notifications and sanctions are arranged in order of seriousness. The phrase “subject to suspension” below means that the Academic Standing Committee may place students on suspension or Strict Probation at its own discretion.

**Warning**

Academic Warning is an indicator that the student may become liable for a more serious academic sanction, including Suspension, if grades do not improve or the student does not earn academic credits. Students on Warning have no restrictions on their right to take courses and participate in all the activities of the College. However, they need to monitor their activities to make sure that they do not fall into greater academic difficulty.

A student on Warning may be subject to suspension at the end of a semester for an extremely poor academic performance (see 2.a.vi). A student on Warning may be required to draw up, sign, and fulfill a Learning Contract. The Contract will bind the student to additional conditions in order to continue as a student at Cornell.

**Probation**

Academic Probation is an indication that, unless improvement in a student’s academic performance can be demonstrated, that student is subject to suspension from Cornell. Students on Probation have no restrictions on their right to take courses and participate in all the activities of the College. However, they need to bring up their semester or cumulative GPA to 2.00 and/or make up lost credits as quickly as possible. They may need to curtail their non-academic activities to make sure that they do not fall into even greater difficulty. A student on Probation is required to draw up, sign, and fulfill a Learning Contract. The Contract will bind
the student to additional conditions in order to continue as a student at Cornell. Students who do not fulfill the items in their learning contract are subject to suspension from the college.

**Strict Probation**

Students whose academic record is such that they are subject to Suspension at the end of a semester are given the opportunity to submit a statement to the Committee where they (a) explain factors affecting their academic performance, (b) outline a plan for improving their academic performance, and (c) discuss their commitment to following through on this plan. This plan should in most cases include ending participation in college sponsored activities that are hindering the student’s academic progress.

Students must submit this information to the Academic Standing Committee prior to the scheduled time when the Committee will conduct its academic review of students for the semester. These students may be placed on Strict Probation (instead of being suspended) if they present a plan for improving their academic performance that the Committee deems compelling and if the Committee concludes that the student has a reasonable chance to graduate from Cornell. If the Committee determines that the student has failed to meet the obligations of their plan for improving their academic performance (as described in their previous learning contract required as a part of being put on Probation), the student will normally be suspended from the college. The actions of the Committee are not subject to appeal.

**Students who are on Strict Probation are considered as failing to make satisfactory progress towards graduation. Therefore, in accordance with NCAA rules, students on strict probation may not compete on any intercollegiate athletic team. Other college affiliated organizations, offices or programs, may impose their own restrictions on members failing to make satisfactory progress towards graduation.**

**Suspension**

An individual who is suspended for unsatisfactory academic performance will have their status as a student revoked and will be denied permission to continue to attend classes, to enroll in subsequent terms, to reside in College housing, to receive Cornell-funded financial aid, and to participate in Cornell-sponsored extracurricular activities in ways that are not also open to the general public. The student must leave the campus within three days after notification unless granted an extension by the Dean of Students. The individual may apply for readmission to the College once they have met stipulations laid out in their suspension letter.

**Dismissal**

Students are academically dismissed if they have been suspended once before in their career at Cornell, have been readmitted, and are now being suspended for a second time. Such students are not permitted to apply for readmission to the College.

Coaches should reinforce the college policy with regards to class attendance and share the following guidelines with their student-athletes:
● No athlete is automatically excused from class for an athletic event. There are no excused absences for games and students should not expect that professors are required to let them out of class.

● Student-athletes should communicate with their academic advisers that they are athletes and choose classes that will limit conflicts with their game schedules when possible.

● Coaches should give student-athletes their game/match/meet schedule as soon as it is ready so they can meet with their professors on day one of each block to discuss any potential conflicts.

● Students should ASK their professors if they may miss class for a game and offer suggestions for how they can complete the assigned work in advance. It is up to the professor whether or not to give permission for such an arrangement.

● Students should then remind professors of their travel dates the day before.

● Students should aim to miss the LEAST amount of class possible: for example, if they can attend the first half of class and then leave early to catch the bus/van they should do that instead of missing the entire class. Or, if a student finishes class a few minutes before the bus is leaving she should bring all of her travel gear to class, ask a teammate to bring her lunch, wear her uniform to class, and then run directly to the bus to avoid having to miss class at all.

● Games should NEVER be used as an excuse after the fact for why a class was missed the previous day or week. This is not acceptable.

● For last minute changes: (rainouts, playoffs, etc) students should speak to their professor as soon as possible and fully explain the situation before they ASK permission to attend a game.

● Student-athletes should “save” any absences for these situations – they should not skip classes for other reasons and then still hope to be given permission to miss for games.

● If a problem arises the student-athlete should alert his/her coach and the coach should speak to an athletic administrator and/or our Faculty Athletic Representative for guidance on how to proceed. Coaches may be able to contact the involved professor directly, but should discuss the situation with the student and an administrator first.

● If a student-athlete intentionally misses three (3) classes or more in a block without a legitimate reason, that student-athlete may be suspended from practice and competition for an extended period of time. The decision will be determined by the Head Coach and Athletic Director.

Full information regarding student academic standards can be found in the Cornell College Catalogue.